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BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION POLICY

TRANSFORMER OIL SPILL CLEANUP POLICY

BER POLICY # BER-ARS-047

DATE: March 21, 2007

REVISED: January 14, 2011

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The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Bureau of Environmental Remediation (BER), Response Unit is responsible for ensuring that liable parties address contamination emanating from transformer oil spills so that it does not impact human health and the environment. The Transformer Oil Spill Cleanup Policy will be used to provide a consistent approach for the cleanup of transformer oil spill sites.

Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) are mixtures of up to 209 individual chlorinated compounds (known as congeners). There are no known natural sources of PCBs. PCBs are either oily liquids or solids that are colorless to light yellow. Some PCBs can exist as a vapor in air. PCBs have no known smell or taste. Many commercial PCB mixtures were known in the U.S. by the trade name Aroclor.¹

Spills of transformer oil that have documented PCB concentrations less than or equal to 50 parts per million (ppm) in the oil, shall require removal of the impacted soil. Impacted soil is soil that is saturated or visibly stained with transformer oil. The contaminated soil may be disposed as a Special Waste at an approved landfill. No soil confirmation sampling will be required in the excavated area.

Spills of transformer oil that have documented PCB concentration greater than 50 ppm in the oil shall require removal of the impacted soil. The excavated soil will be considered hazardous waste and disposal shall be through a Treatment, Storage or Disposal Facility. Confirmation sampling in the excavated area is required.

¹ Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxfaqs/tf.asp?id=140&tid=26>